

The Khartoum government has demonstrated that it cannot be relied upon to address the humanitarian crisis. The government's use of import restrictions and routine harassment of aid workers and obstruction to food aid deliveries is according to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, "a violation of international humanitarian law." Also, The United Nations' International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur report found that the Sudanese government has committed major crimes under international law, including a pattern of mass killings, rape, pillage and forced displacement that constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity. The U.N. must act now to protect civilians.

History will remember that we waited for the approval of a genocidal regime before going in to protect innocent Darfurians. We must act now. The world will remember that this Republican Congress, Republican Senate and Republican White House did not do all it could to stop the deaths, destruction and displacement that is occurring in Darfur.

It has been 2 years since then-Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that, "genocide has been committed in Darfur, and the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility." I have supported and continue to support the 7,000 member African Union Mission in Sudan, AMIS. As it stands, AMIS has no mandate to protect civilians, lacks the troop strength, financial, and logistical support necessary to stop the ongoing genocide. However, given these insurmountable odds, the A.U. force has performed admirably. AMIS' mandate was set to expire on September 30, 2006, and the A.U. has consistently called for transition of AMIS to the U.N. force. Khartoum vehemently opposes this request and consequently opposes U.N. Security Resolution 1706 but with much reluctance, Khartoum has agreed to extend AMIS' mandate until the end of the year.

The United States continues to call on the Sudanese Government to recognize the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and immediately agree to a transition of AMIS to the U.N. President Bush has failed to leverage the diplomatic might of the presidency to overcome the objections of the Sudanese Government to a U.N. force entering Darfur. Instead, we have accepted the stalling tactics of the Sudanese administration: Only a massive U.N. force can legitimately and credibly protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access and fully carry out the extensive monitoring and implementation duties spelled out in the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The Darfur Peace Agreement, DPA, establishes critical security, wealth-sharing and power sharing arrangements that address the long-standing economic and political marginalization of Darfur. To date, the criteria's of the DPA have yet to be implemented thus creating a sense of uncertainty for Darfur.

We must leverage our compounded international diplomatic efforts to work with members of the Security Council such as China and Russia to overcome Sudanese President al-Bashir's objections to U.N. Security Council Resolution 1706 and allow the 20,000 U.N. forces to enter Darfur and begin to provide immediate security to Darfurians. The international community should not take a backseat to Khartoum's objections nor should the deployment of the troops be contingent upon Khartoum's consent.

The situation on the ground continues to spiral out of control. Violence is causing surges in malnutrition and starvation rates. Humanitarian aid organizations have been cut off from helping those in need. Twelve humanitarian aid workers have been killed in the last 2 months. Twenty-five humanitarian aid vehicles have been hijacked causing humanitarian aid organizations to pull out of northern Darfur leaving major populations vulnerable.

Under pressure from the Congress, the President recently appointed a Special Envoy for Darfur, Andrew Natsios. Securing civilians should be Mr. Natsios' primary responsibility. Further, he should have a strong mandate and staff to ensure he is successful in achieving this mandate.

The Government of Sudan is deploying 26,000 Sudanese troops to Darfur in preparation for a major offensive. At the same time, the Sudanese Government is opposed to U.N. forces entering Darfur and continues to object to the African Union troops remaining in Darfur if they transition into a U.N. force. The actions by the Government of Sudan should raise concern for the safety of the people of Darfur.

Sudanese armed forces—Janjaweed militia—are still using vehicles that they've painted white to look like African Union troops and they continue to steal gasoline from the A.U. It is despicable to know that the Sudanese Government in Khartoum continues to use helicopter gunships and Soviet-era Antonov planes to bomb villages and drive innocent unarmed civilians from their mud-and-thatch hut homes.

An international force is needed immediately to stop the killings, rapes, and pillaging in Darfur; provide security to facilitate humanitarian assistance programs for internally displaced people; enforce the cease-fire between the government in Khartoum and the rebel groups in Darfur to allow for political negotiations; and, facilitate the return of civilians to their land, reconstruction of homes, and provide a secure environment.

Mr. Speaker, we should be immediately deploying a U.N. peacekeeping force in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1706 and immediately implement all previously passed U.N. Security Council resolutions. The people of Darfur should not have to wait. We must act not before it is too late, we must act now before there is no one left to protect.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. FRED L. DAVIS, SR.

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Fred L. Davis, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement from the Community Church of God in Ypsilanti, Michigan, after 39 years of service.

A native of Boligee, Alabama, Dr. Davis came to the Ypsilanti area in 1968 with the intention to serve and help those in his community. He has provided this service with his leadership at the Community Church of God. Dr. Davis also worked as a Supervisor at General Motors for more than 30 years. His preparation and training for this service included a strong and supportive family and church and it

was supplemented by studies at the Detroit Bible College, where he received his diploma in 1961. Dr. Davis was also awarded an honorary doctorate's degree in 1996 from the Detroit Extension of Faith Evangelistic Christian Schools.

During his tenure, Dr. Davis implemented many different programs at Community Church of God, including Alcoholics Anonymous, narcotics and substance abuse assistance, food and clothing distributions, marriage and singles therapy classes and tutoring. These programs, which Dr. Davis started and facilitated, have helped to strengthen and improve the church and its community.

Dr. Davis' service has not been limited to only to his congregation. He has served as the Ypsilanti Police Department Chaplain since 1992, providing aid and comfort to the brave men and women of the department in their times of great need. He also currently serves as an active member of the United Way and the Hope Clinic and is on the executive committees for the United Negro College Fund and the Ministerial Alliance of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Area.

I applaud Dr. Davis for his many years of service. I know that he and Verlouis Davis, his wife of 54 years, will enjoy this new phase of life, but will continue to give back to the community in the Ypsilanti area. Once again, I salute the work of Dr. Fred Davis and I wish both he and his wife many more years of happiness.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006. There are many glaring problems with this bill. It gives the President unilateral discretion to interpret the meaning and application of provisions in the Geneva Convention that relate to torture, which could result in the allowance of humiliating and degrading interrogation practices. It redefines the definition of an "unlawful enemy combatant" to include any individual who "materially" and "purposefully" supported hostilities against the United States. This new definition is so broadly worded; it could include someone who made an economic contribution to an organization that they did not know was on a terror-watch list. It still allows into evidence information that was obtained through torture and coercion, as long as it was obtained before the passage of the Detainee Torture Act. Perhaps most damaging is the stripping of the United States courts' habeas corpus jurisdiction to review detentions, eliminating one of the most fundamental and important precepts of our American Constitutional tradition.

The court-stripping provisions included in this legislation would do serious harm to the longstanding rule that the government cannot just imprison people without giving them the opportunity for a fair and impartial determination that the detention is in accordance with the Constitution. Consider the case of Maher